

April 23, 2003
MCA-MDT Technical Committee Meeting

The meeting began at 8:00 a.m.

Richard Allison filled in for Bob Kober as MCA chairman for this meeting. He opened by going right into the old business from last month.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Traffic Gravel Measurement. MCA asked MDT to consider allowing them to measure traffic gravel by the volume in the haul vehicle. Currently, the primary method of measurement for traffic gravel is by plan dimension. MCA felt that measuring gravel by plan dimension is not practical. MCA asked MDT to consider measuring the traffic gravel by the ton or by the haul vehicle. MDT will look into this concern and comment back at the next meeting.

2. Single Use Signs. MDT asked MCA to consider how they wanted to bid single use signs in urban projects. MDT stated that there is an urban project that currently uses these signs as a bid item and the Butte district has been doing them through invoices or agreed price. MDT wanted MCA to entertain the idea of using a rate schedule item or paying for signs as a separate bid item tied to traffic control units. MDT feels this would greatly cut down on the paperwork. The consensus was to include a separate bid item for single use signs.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Detailed Drawings. MDT distributed the proposed detail drawings for erosion control along with the erosion control special provision and rate schedule. This rate schedule sets rates up front. MDT wants to see more environmentally friendly means of erosion control with low maintenance. MDT does not want to force a dollar bid on this item. Erosion control will be a contract bid item. The detailed drawings, special provision and rate schedule will be included in the June letting, but comments will be ongoing.

2. Base Course Sampling. MDT addressed MCA's concerns of timeliness of test results and location of testing. MDT will continue to test the material in place. MDT wants to encourage the contractor to do Quality Control so they can change their targets as is allowed by the specification. MCA agreed that doing their own QC would give them the opportunity to change the targets after the first lot is in place. This way, the contractors can rely on their own tests rather than wait for MDT's test results.

3. Changes to the Ride Specification. Prior to this meeting, MDT received comments on this item. Some members of the MCA are frustrated with the limitation of incentive to only the top 120mm of plant mix depth. They felt that the incentive should be applied to the full depth to achieve the desired ride. MCA also felt that the ride spec would continue to be tightened so much that the effort required to achieve incentive isn't worth the incentive. MDT replied by saying that the tightening of this spec will not happen because MDT wants the incentive to be substantial enough to warrant the extra effort. MDT feels that the surfacing below the 120mm depth does not have a significant affect on the finished ride. MCA also had concerns dealing with contractor motivation to constantly modify procedures to keep up with the ever-changing parameters on top of small or unachievable incentives. MDT feels the 120mm depth will put a cap on the incentive. Also, MDT wants to keep incentives high enough to encourage good ride. MDT will have a final draft by next month.

4. Submittal Requirements in Contracts. MDT's focus is to gather all specifications and special provisions and make them coincide with the submittal tables. MCA requested submittal timelines. MDT will consider this request. MDT also wants the turn around in a reasonable amount of time. MDT informed MCA that the submittal requirements are available on the external and internal websites. MDT would like to form a joint committee to continue identifying those submittals that can be eliminated. MCA will comment by the next meeting.

5. Bridge Pile Specifications. MCA expressed concern with the need to submit pile hammer tests. MDT responded by informing MCA that they considered three possible ways to go about this. Contractors could submit the hammer for approval after the bid letting, MDT could hire a consultant to do evaluations on hammers prior to bid letting, or have a geotechnical consultant to do the testing prior to the bid letting. Due the amount of time required to approve the different hammers prior to the bid letting, MDT did not feel that it was practical or cost-effective to approve hammers prior to the bid letting, either by the Department or by a consultant. MCA commented that this would work provided that sufficient information is on the plans to be able to roughly identify the appropriate hammer for bidding purposes. MDT stated that the final draft is on the way.

6. Final Estimates. MDT passed out a proposed outline for the final estimates. MDT stated that when the project is 90% completed, the EPM submits a 90% Completion Memo to the

Construction Bureau. Once the Project Manager agrees that the work is completed, a final work inspection form would be submitted. When the required documentation has been completed and the contractor has been furnished the final quantities for the contract, the contractor would then submit a Contractor's Request and Certification for Acceptance form to the EPM. Also, MDT wants to generate some kind of a partial acceptance form as well. MDT stated that supplemental specifications will be proposed to go along with the new forms. MCA will distribute the final payment outline and will comment at the next meeting.

7. Heavy Duty Cattle Guard Bases. MDT informed MCA that Detailed Drawings will be ready sometime this summer. MDT will accept Heavy Duty Cattle Guard Bases on a project-by-project basis until the Detailed Drawings are ready for implementation.

8. Standard Specification 108.03. MCA expressed concern with furnishing the appropriate scheduling software. MDT stated that they would reimburse the contractors at invoice price for providing the software. Another major concern from MCA was the monthly schedules. MDT informed MCA the department needs the schedules for staffing requirements. MDT pulled some language out of the specification that dealt with breach of contract when schedules were not submitted in a timely manner. MDT also is requesting a schedule along with a narrative on CPM jobs and non-CPM jobs. The final draft should be ready next month.

The next meeting will be **May 21, 2003**, beginning at 8:00 a.m. at the **MCA Office**.

cc:	Darrin Grenfell, FHWA	Bob Kober	District Construction Engrs.
	Joel Marshik	Suzy Althof	
	James Walther	Carl Peil	
	Mark Wissinger	Scott Barnes	
	Matt Strizich	Kent Barnes	
	MCA- Attn, Dee Dee Johnson		